

1-8 Cav. Detains Alleged Weapon Supplier in Raid



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

Spc. Elama Palemene of Headquarters Company, 1-8 Cav., examines documents found among chemicals and electronic equipment suspected for weapon making during a midnight raid at an Al Dura home May 23.

215th FSB: Heart of the First Team's 3rd BCT

By Spc. Jan Critchfield

122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq- Without blood, muscles will not flex, and it's the heart's job to keep muscles supplied with the blood they need. Similarly, the 215th Forward Support Battalion's responsibility is to ensure that the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's blood—diesel fuel—is available to feed hundreds of fuel-hungry trucks, tanks, and tracks. Without fuel, the brigade would be unable to flex its combat muscle.

"The 3rd BCT wouldn't be able to roll vehicles because we fuel them. They wouldn't be able to eat because we supply the food. They wouldn't be able to fire bullets because we supply the ammo," 215th FSB Executive Officer Maj. Russell Cavin said.

Convoing in vehicles that present such large and potentially explosive targets, the 215th FSB 'Blacksmiths' are well aware of the dangers that their job entails.

"Hearing about those fuelers getting killed ... it kicked it

By Pfc. Al Barrus

122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq- A weapons supplier and two other suspects were detained May 23 at an Al Dura home by the Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 5th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Working from a tip received by a man who was arrested three weeks ago, squads of the 1st Platoon "Bad Boyz" detained a weapons supplier, during a midnight cordon and search mission, Capt. Jeff Mersiowsky, Company B commander, said. The search also yielded electronic equipment and chemicals that could be used to make homemade weapons.

The suspected weapons supplier was detained and questioned along with two other males who lived in the home, because of the alleged bomb-making materials.

"When we started doing tactful questioning, they started lying and making up different stories," Mersiowsky said. "As soon as they started lying I decided that we should take them [into custody for] further questioning."

After detaining the alleged weapons supplier and the two other suspects, the Soldiers pushed on to find a second weapons supplier at a nearby farmhouse.

"We doubt they are expecting us ... and we don't suspect that we will need to fire any rounds," 1st Lt. Chris Widell, Company B, said.

The second search yielded no suspects or weapons.

"I thought the chance of getting [the second weapons supplier] would be lower because we have his brother," he said. "He obviously knows that we have his brother in custody, and that he'd probably

Continued on Page 2

in gear a little bit," said 215th fuel truck driver and petroleum specialist Pvt. 2 Jesse Wachtel, referring to a convoy of fuel trucks that was ambushed and destroyed by insurgents when the unit first deployed to Iraq in March, sending a thick, black column of smoke into the air that could be seen for miles. "I'm not in Kuwait anymore, I'm not in the States anymore, I'm in Iraq and I need to watch out."

Though the unit is an explosive target, the trucks

Continued on Page 4



By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD

215th Forward Support Battalion provides the fuel that allows the brigade to flex its muscle.

Raid a Success, No Rounds Fired

Continued from Page 1 leak information, so we think he took a clue and left."

Mersiowsky said the operation went very smoothly.

"There was no collateral damage," Mersiowsky said. "We didn't have to break anything in the house or knock down any doors."

The Soldiers detained a

weapons supplier, two suspects, confiscated materials that could be used for making weapons and did so without having to fire a round. In their eyes the raid was a success.

"We always hope for a safe mission, but we [have to] expect to get caught in a fire fight," Mersiowsky said. "We are trained for whatever comes at us."



Pvt. Juan Aguilar of Company B, 1-8 Cav. places chemicals and potential bomb-making materials outside for examination while detainees wait to be questioned during a midnight raid in Al Dura May 23.

By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

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THE ABCs OF SAFETY

Attitude, Behavior, and Control

- ▶ **A safe attitude means staying alert and focused on the job at hand.**
- ▶ **Safe behavior means taking safety guidelines and practices seriously.**
- ▶ **Control means taking responsibility.**

Safety is more than just following your commander's guidelines while on the job. Safety is actually a combination of safe attitude, behavior, and control both on and off the job. Attitude means your frame of mind -- the way in which you approach a given situation. Behavior means what you do about it -- how you react to a situation. Control refers to making your surroundings -- where you do what you do -- safe. Safe attitude, behavior, and control add up to a safer, more productive you.

ABC's -- Easy as 1-2-3. Attitude, behavior, and control are the three most important (and perhaps the simplest) aspects of personal safety both on and off duty. Take a moment to review your safety ABCs to see if you're doing all you can to protect yourself from careless, needless injury.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

What is your name?

Shis-mek?

My name is...

ismee...

Thursday

High: 108
Low: 80



Friday

High: 104
Low: 79



Saturday

High: 103
Low: 79



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office

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"Warriors Bow Their Heads:

National Day of Prayer Celebrated in Taji

By Spc. Benjamin Cossel

122nd MPAD

CAMP COOKE, Taji, Iraq- The early morning sunrise painted an awe-inspiring orange and pink tapestry across the already hot desert sky. Seen from a distance, a silhouetted line of Soldiers filed into the dining facility tent here. While Soldiers walking into the chow hall at this early hour is not an unusual sight, the large numbers suggested that something was different this first Thursday of May.

Held in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer, 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), "The Warriors," 1st Cavalry Division hosted a prayer breakfast open to camp residents of all faiths May 6.

"With our Soldiers being over here in harm's way," said Chaplain (Maj.) Addul-Rashced Muhammad, brigade chaplain of 4th BCT, "I think



Chaplain (Maj.) Addul-Rashced Muhammad reads from the Koran, part of a diverse service, featuring readings from the Old and New Testament, as well as a spiritual hymn by the Indian Men's Choir.



Photos by Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

Members of the Indian Men's Choir sing a spiritual hymn in their native language, then followed it up by singing the hymn in English.

we need to remember to stop to give praise and thanks to God for all that he has given us."

The 500-person capacity dining facility was filled to standing room only as Soldiers ate breakfast and shared in the fellowship the gathering provided. Forty-five minutes later, the 39th BCT chaplain, Lt. Col. Coyse McClemore gave the invocation. He was followed by readings from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, as well from the as the Koran. The Indian Men's Choir sang a spiritual hymn in their native tongue as well as an English version of the song.

Chaplain (Col.) Gene Fowler, the Combined Joint Task Force-7 (CJTF-7) chaplain served as the keynote speaker for the event. His topic of discussion: "The Reality of Peace in a Pluralistic Environment."

Noting that the day's

prayer breakfast coincided with the National Day of Prayer, Muhammad took a moment to explain the significance of the day.

"Beginning at 8 a.m. on the east coast, services will be held throughout the country celebrating the National Day of Prayer," Muhammad explained.

"We felt it appropriate, given where we are to have our prayer breakfast fall on this day."

The National Day of Prayer was established in 1952 with the passing of a Congressional bill calling for

Continued on Page 4



Troopers of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division relax and enjoy the fellowship during a prayer breakfast at the Camp Cooke dining facility, held in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer.

Prayer Breakfast Helps To Remind of Sacrifices

Continued from Page 3

the first Thursday of May to be set aside for just that purpose. The bill was later signed into law by then-President Harry Truman. Truman's signing only codified a tradition dating back to the birth of the United States, when the Continental Congress called for a day of prayer for guidance and wisdom in the forming of our nation.

Adding further significance, Muhammad drew the parallel between the calling of the United States' first National Day of Prayer and the prayer breakfast at Camp Cooke.

"We are blessed to live in a free country and hopefully something like this (the prayer breakfast) will remind us of the great sacrifices that we are making to help the Iraqi people to also experience the freedoms we so much love."

Bell County Expo Graduation Schedule

(Times are Central Standard Time)

May 27, 2004 8:00PM -
Belton High School
May 28, 2004 7:30PM -
Copperas Cove High School
May 29, 2004 10:00AM -
Temple High School
May 29, 2004 3:00PM -
Killeen High School
May 29, 2004 8:00PM -
Ellison High School
May 30, 2004 2:00PM -
Harker Heights High School
May 30, 2004 6:00PM -
Shoemaker High School

215th Defend Against Insurgents to Perform Mission

Continued from Page 1

come well prepared.

"We have crew served weapons on all our vehicles, including the [fuel trucks]," 215th Command Sgt. Maj. Clarence Hillman said. "We've found that if we look like a hard target, we probably won't get hit. And if we do get hit, we have firepower."

Although they travel one of the most dangerous routes in Iraq on regular fuel re-supply missions, the 215th had been the only FSB in the 1st Cavalry Division to avoid any hostile action. But that was before a dozen insurgents with automatic weapons opened fire on a one of their fuel re-supply convoys just outside of Baghdad International Airport.

Concealed in tall grass and positioned on the top of nearby houses, the insurgents failed to find their mark. No Soldiers were injured and no equipment was damaged.

The 'Blacksmiths' did, however, expend several hundred rounds of ammunition, homing in on insurgent fire.

"Soldiers could see rounds getting walked up towards their vehicles and that's when they engaged the enemy," Cavin said, who was riding in a Humvee that was part of the convoy that was attacked.

"One thing I told [my Soldiers] prior to going out was that they're probably going to get hit sooner or later and when they do get hit, they need to make sure they return fire," Hillman said.

It was unclear as to whether or not the impressive



By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD
Pvt. 2 Jesse Wachtel, a truck driver and petroleum supply specialist with the 215th Forward Supply Battalion, checks the level of fuel in his truck during a fuel re-supply mission. The 215th is the only FSB that provides fuel, food, maintenance, and ammo to the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team; making the missions they conduct essential to the brigade's overall success.

barrage of suppressive fire inflicted any insurgent casualties, but the main intent was to discourage future attacks, Lt. Col. Darfus Johnson, 215th FSB commanding officer, said.

"I want [insurgents] to see

that 63 and associate it with a significant emotional event," Johnson said, referring to the '63' painted on the side of 215th Humvees.

"Hopefully, they'll think twice," Hillman added.



Professional, Polite & Prepared to Kill

